GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2673
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2003
MARKETING OF SUB-STANDARD PRODUCTS
M. JAGANNATH

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Top brands pass on sub- standard soaps, says study" appearing in the 'Deccan Chronicle' of January 27, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the action taken against the soap manufacturers marketing sub-standard, under weight and spurious toilet soaps during last one year?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. However, Voluntary Organization in Interest of Consumer Education (VOICE) in its study on the identical subject have, inter alia, commented on 12 brands of toilet soaps with regard to ingredients, weight, Total Fat Contents and lather they generate apparently with a view to enlighten the consumers.

(c) : Soaps are not covered under the Mandatory Certification Scheme of the Bureau of India Standards. Therefore, manufacturers of soaps are not required to obtain Bureau of Indian Standards Certification Mark for manufacturing soaps which could ensures their conformity to the quality specifications prescribed in the relevant Indian Standards. Besides, none of the brands reported in the study are ISI marked. Soaps are, otherwise covered by the Packaged Commodities Rules, provisions of which are to be enforced by the respective State Governments.